

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Selectmen's Meeting Room – Town Hall
Monthly Meeting – March 26, 2015
7:00 PM**

DRAFT MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton Representative
Fran McMahon, Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast
Parks/Recreation)
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Dean. Merrill, Citizen at Large
Rich Reniere, Hampton Beach Village District
Rick Griffin, Town of Hampton Representative

Excused: 0

Absent: 0

Other: Jason Bachand, Town Planner
Anne Marchand, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Commissioners.

Public Comments related to Agenda Items: No public comments.

Appointments. Charlie Preston – Beach Parking

Mr. Preston spoke to the Commission about Beach Parking, highlighting the letter from DRED to Governor Hassan regarding the contract with Century Bank for Seacoast Parking Citation Payment Lockbox Services, specifically the section about payments not being received with 60 days being referred to the collection agency. Mr. Preston provided the Commission with a copy of the letter. He also provided the Cale figures for April 2013 and 2014, noting that April 1 – October 31, 2014, receipts totaled \$446,694.

He also stated that he spoke before the Board of Selectmen at their March 23, 2015 meeting regarding the JOP and found information for JOP considerations. He reported there is a 47 page audit on meter patrols to 2013 and this information should be valued.

Mr. Preston spoke of visitor experiences and revenue, noting parking tickets are issued during the extended half-price seasons. He also spoke of visitors with experiences of being issued tickets for parking in a nearly empty parking lot, commenting that word of mouth can be the best or worst advertising. He recommends stopping meter charges after the Seafood Festival on weekdays. He also said he supports parking privileges for State Park and Veterans License plate holders on weekdays excluding holidays from the Monday after the Seafood Festival until the Monday after school closes.

Mr. Preston said people are being driven away from the beach with the ticketing policy, stating those people will never come back and will bad-mouth Hampton Beach for years to come.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Watson to accept the Minutes of the January 22, 2015 Meeting, as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Merrill

VOTE: 7 in Favor, 0 Opposed, 2 Abstain (Mr. Griffin, Mr. Reniere) MOTION PASSED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. Meeting Update – HBAC/HBVD/Chamber/Hampton Recreation Department

Ms. Martin, Recreation Director, provided a photo of a glass drop off area shelter which is proposed for the corner of Brown and Ashworth. The cost is \$9305.00. Being glass, it could be used to post advertising for restaurants, etc. Mr. Nyhan noted that there may be ways to get donations or funding, but the HBAC cannot afford the cost. Ms. Martin will try to contact another vendor.

Ms. Martin also provided a photograph of three types of bike racks which are proposed to go at the corner of the Ashworth parking lot on Brown Avenue. The cost is \$225.00 each with 6 racks being \$1350. This item is tabled pending additional quotes and looking at different funding sources.

The Commission agreed to table the above pending more information.

2. Meeting Request – Executive Councilor Sununu re NHDOT Ten Year Plan.

Mr. Nyhan stated he is waiting to hear back from Councilor Sununu regarding a future meeting.

3. Meeting request from US Congressman Guinta's office.

Mr. Nyhan stated that that he was contacted by Congressman Guinta's aide who said the Congressman would be interested in hearing from the HBAC regarding funding initiatives over the next year. Mr. Nyhan told the aide that HBAC focus is looking to the Federal Government for transportation funds and would be grateful for the Congressman's support. Mr. Watson noted that he is keeping his eyes open for transportation grants this year and would encourage the support and assistance of Congressman Guinta's office.

4. Meeting with RPC – Scenic Byways Planning

Mr. Nyhan stated he attended a meeting with the RPC's Scenic Byways Project Advisory Board, which has finished the corridor management plan. He said that other topics included transportation with recommendations for the Hampton area. The final meeting of this Board met this evening, March 26th and the final plan should be submitted in late April to each town for adoption. Mr. Nyhan has the final draft available for review by the Commissioners.

TREASURER's REPORT – Mr. Housman.

Mr. Housman reported a balance of \$16,499.43 after payment of \$732 to the Town of Hampton for administrative services.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Rage to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Reniere

VOTE: 9 in favor 0 opposed.

MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Transportation Grant Update DOT – Mr. Watson

Mr. Watson stated, regarding the Scenic Byways Plan, that the positive thing about the plan is that it is being overseen jointly.

Mr. Watson then briefly summarized the Special Meeting which occurred prior to this meeting. He said that the VHB staff on board, Gordon Levy and Dale Abbott, are very familiar with the seacoast and have a lot of local experience going forward on the Transportation Plan. He reported that the VHB staff has met with the RPC reviewing existing plans and getting roadway traffic counts and bike/pedestrian information.

Mr. Watson noted that a general background and existing conditions were reviewed this evening and there was a suggestion to extend the area beyond the original scope. Mr. Rose (Project Director) said he would see how this can fit into the work they currently have going on. A big step, Mr. Watson noted, is wrapping up the existing condition information and beginning a marketing campaign as outlined in the previous special meeting. A web Site, Face Book, Twitter will be available before the first public meeting which will help getting word of the meeting out to the public. He also noted that there is excitement with VHB using "Mind Mixer" which is comparable with a 24- hour customer service Town Hall. It should be noted that "Mind Mixer" is a non-anonymous environment.

Mr. Watson concluded by saying that the first public meeting session should be a listening session, and DRED should be enticed to come on board. He said this first meeting will be to hear the issues which will then be developed over the summer, with a second public meeting to be held after Labor Day. VHB, he said, wants

direction and insight on how we implement the changes in the Master Plan and on the ground. This portion of the grant should be wrapped up by the end of the year, then the design work can begin.

Mr. Rose stated that this is not a DOT project and is facilitating doing the work for the HBAC. This is a HBAC plan and VHB and DOT will only do what is asked of them.

It is expected the public meeting will be held right before Memorial Day in the function room of the Seashell on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening. Efforts will be made to get many people to attend, both citizens and representatives of the different organizations in order to get a broad range of input.

2. DRED operational spring update Mike Housman.

Mr. Housman reported that the equipment is being mobilized for the North Beach seawall project which will re-start next week. He also reported that DRED and the Parks will have their spring meeting on May 16th and DRED staff will be available to meet with the public. Further, meter startup will be scheduled for mid-April.

Mr. Housman spoke about the cooperative efforts of the Town, DOT, and DRED moving the snow at the beach with a lot of equipment. Parking will be available for the first concert of the season and parking is in much better shape today, than yesterday. He complimented DOT on their efforts.

Mr. Nyhan stated that ideas were exchanged on what was needed to be done for the snow removal and why. Everyone understood they had a piece to play in the plan. Mr. Nyhan complimented Christ Jacobs from the Hampton DPW. He thanked everyone involved in this snow-removal project.

Mr. Housman continued by stating that DRED is hiring a full-time staff member for operations who will start work on April 3rd.

Mr. Housman also reported that the JOP between the Town and DRED was signed in January for the 2015 season. He also noted that one advantage of the JOP is that DRED is talking with the Town DPW which fosters good relations. Also, DRED also has agreements with the HBVD and the Chamber of Commerce.

3. WiFi at the Beach – Mr. Nyhan said there is nothing new to report at this meeting; and, hopefully there will be more information available by April's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. HBVD new parking strategy – Mr. Rage

Mr. Rage stated that the HBVD has a Warrant Article up for vote at their Annual Meeting to be held on Friday, March 28, 2015. The Article deals with the purchase of four lots that was formerly the Clews Furniture Store. The four lots would create additional parking for neighbors, shop customers, and tourists. Mr. Rage spoke of the desperate need for additional parking at this part of the beach which, now, has no public parking lots. This will open an area beneficial for all, including employees of beach businesses.

Mr. Preston stated he supports the purchase of the property and noted that the Clews family is being most generous in their transaction. This area, he said, is a congested part of the Precinct and he encourages the support of the people in the Precinct.

Mr. Nyhan stated that the beach is growing, and, looking at the price of parking, by adding an additional, reasonably priced parking area is beneficial to all. Parking has to be a part of the Master Plan this is moving in the right direction.

MOTION: Mr. Nyhan moved the HBAC support the HBVD in their proposal to purchase the Clews four-lot property.

SECOND Mr Preston

VOTE: 9 in favor.

MOTION PASSED

2. State and Town relationship – Mr. Preston

Mr. Preston spoke to the State and Town relationship and specifically an article in the newspaper which contained a comment that the State does nothing for Hampton. He pointed out that DRED and DOT come in and sit and listen to what the HBAC thinks. Further, the Seashell has done a lot to revitalize the beach and the State Park is a jewel. He finds it hard to say the State has not done much. He also pointed to the ribbon cutting at the harbor, the dredging and building of a new bulkhead. He further commented that people paying top price for a Condo want to overlook a beautiful clean beach as well as Town services such as fire and police. He also said the State Police are at the beach working every weekend all summer under the Hampton Police Chief. With regard to the services the Town is giving the State Park, lots of trash that comes off the beach is transported out by the Town.

He concluded saying the State and Town do a lot together, and he does not like reading that they are not working together. Not everyone, he said, is dissatisfied with the State-Town relationship.

Mr. Griffin recommends Mr. Preston go to the Selectmen's Meeting and speak to the above in the Public Comment section of the meeting.

Mr. Nyhan said it is necessary to make sure people have an understanding of the State. People should question the House, Senate, and Governor in terms of financial consideration. The state should not be defined as DRED, and DOT. They are not the State, but components of the State and they should be the ones who are being addressed.

Mr. Griffin stated that the Town and State are not doing anything for the people who live on Ocean Boulevard and people are becoming disenfranchised with living there, paying large amounts of taxes and getting nothing.

Mr. Merrill recommended getting a meeting together and, with level heads, could get a group who would work together to improve the relationships. Collectively, so much could be accomplished, he said.

3. South Beach Entrance Way.

Mr. Nyhan stated he is looking at new, creative ideas on improving the look of this area and would like to concentrate on what the Commission might do to make the entrance more presentable. If there is a reasonable idea or proposal, he would go to the Port Authority and DOT to get permission to let HBAC use the land. He said it is being used as a short-term parking area, which is not the best use; and, if ideas are solicited and implemented, it could be improved and no longer used as a parking area.

4. Other New Business.

Mr. Reinere commented on the Rte. 101 UNITIL project and is not in favor of this project in that it spoils the entrance to the beach and the visuals are being destroyed.

Mr. Watson reported that at the RPC meeting today, Ocean Boulevard was not recommended to move forward in the 10-Year Plan. There is another meeting on April 8, and he encouraged speaking up to get the project recognized.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Mr. Housman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Second: Mr. McMahon

Vote: 9 in favor, 0 opposed,

MOTION PASSED

Thank You to Channel 22 for recording the meeting.

THE NEXT HBAC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, April 23, 2015

Respectfully Submitted:
Anne Marchand, Secretary